

ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES COMMISSION

Minutes of the 209th Meeting

September 20, 2011

INDEX

<u>AREAS</u>	<u>ITEM</u>
Logan Co. – Tract #1 Addition to North Elkhart Hill Grove Land and Water Reserve, Registration	9
Pike Co. – McFarland Hill Land and Water Reserve, Registration	10
Kankakee Co. – Addition to Carl N. Becker Savanna Nature Preserve, Dedication	11
Lake Co. – McLean Woods and Wetlands Nature Preserve, Dedication	12
McHenry Co. – Nature Preserve Addition and Buffer Addition to Barber Fen Nature Preserve, Dedication	13
McHenry Co. – Buffer Addition to Bystricky Prairie Nature Preserve, Dedication	14
McHenry Co. – Nature Preserve Addition and Buffer Addition to Lind Forest Nature Preserve, Dedication	15
McHenry Co. – Slough Creek Fen Nature Preserve, Dedication	16
Pulaski Co. – Hartman Spring Nature Preserve, Dedication	17
Cook Co. – Addition to Wolf Road Prairie Nature Preserve, Dedication	18
Lake Co. – Sarah and Robert Allgyer Prairie Buffer Addition to Skokie River Nature Preserve, Dedication	19
Monroe Co. – White Rock Nature Preserve, Dedication	20
Jo Daviess Co. – Hanover Bluff Nature Preserve Proposed Parking Lot	21

COMMISSION AFFAIRS

Adoption of Agenda	2
Approval of the 208 th Meeting Minutes, May 3, 2011	3
Proposed 2012 Meeting Schedule	4
Election of Advisors and Consultants	5
INPC Staff Report	6
IDNR Staff Report	7
Endangered Species Protection Board Staff Report	8
Election of Officers	22
Natural Areas Acquisition Fund Fiscal Year 2012 Stewardship Proposals	23
Public Comment Period	24
Other Business	25
Adjournment	26

Illinois Nature Preserves Commission
Minutes of the 209th Meeting
(Approved at the 210th Meeting)

Lost Valley Visitor Center
7210 Keystone Road
Richmond, IL 60071

Tuesday, September 20, 2011

209-1) Call to Order, Roll Call, and Introduction of Attendees

At 10:10 a.m., pursuant to the Call to Order of Chair Rosenthal, the meeting began.

Randy Heidorn read the roll call.

Members present: Dennis Clark, George Covington, Donnie Dann, Richard Keating, William McClain, Lauren Rosenthal, and David Thomas.

Members absent: Mare Payne and Jill Riddell.

Chair Rosenthal stated that Dr. Ronald Flemal's term had ended, and he had been replaced by Dennis Clark. She stated that Commissioner Clark was from DuPage County and was a dedicated leader in stewardship. Mr. Clark has been working with the Morton Arboretum on his naturalist certification, and is the director of the Illinois Prairie Path.

It was moved by Covington, seconded by Keating, and carried that the following resolution be adopted:

The Illinois Nature Preserves Commission wishes to recognize the contributions of Dr. Ronald Flemal during his tenure as a Commissioner from 2002 to 2011. He will be remembered for bringing his thoughtful insight relating to making decisions on the protection of lands in the system, particularly his appreciation of the natural world, his knowledge of geology, and the practical application of it in protecting the groundwater resources of the Nature Preserves System. His years of service with the Commission, the State of Illinois and his continuing commitment to and advocacy for the Commission will always be greatly appreciated.

(Resolution 2147)

Kent Krautstrunk, Trustee with the McHenry County Conservation District (MCCD), welcomed everyone to the Glacial Park. He stated that the MCCD was happy to host the INPC meeting and supported the commitment to preserving the natural resources. The work of the MCCD was done by a dedicated and highly professional staff, but the extent of its accomplishments would not be possible without the collaboration that comes with strengthening relationships with like-minded groups and organizations like the INPC. The MCCD was celebrating its 40th anniversary. Since 1971, the MCCD has been dedicated to preserving natural areas, creating open space, protecting land along major waterways, restoring wildlife habitats, and providing trails and recreational facilities for the public to enjoy. The MCCD currently manages over 25,000 acres and has 32

sites and regional trails open for the public to enjoy. The MCCD protects nearly 8,000 acres of rare, high-quality wetlands, savannas, and prairies where thousands of threatened and endangered species find refuge in the natural communities. The MCCD has 18 dedicated nature preserves within its boundaries, including 400 acres within Glacial Park. As the District looks to the future, it hopes to have many opportunities to work collaboratively with the INPC to promote the long term viability of the County's biodiversity and to encourage responsible use of its land in concert with the natural resources.

Others present: Steven Byers, Ray Geroff, Randy Heidorn, Russell Heinrichs, Tom Lerczak, Angella Moorehouse, Kelly Neal, John Nelson, Debbie Newman, Debbie Reider, Kim Roman, and Jenny Skufca, Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC); John Rogner, Assistant Director, Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR); Ed Anderson, Scott Ballard, Jeannie Barnes, Maggie Cole, Stefanie Fitzimons, Hannah Kalk, Jim Herkert, Tara Kieninger, Liz Poe, Eric Smith, Penny Snyder, Bob Szafoni, Christy Toxell-Thomas, and Samantha Worthington, Office of Resource Conservation (ORC), IDNR; Diane Tecic and Nancy Williamson, IDNR; John Clemetse and Anne Mankowski, Endangered Species Protection Board (ESPB); Thomas Emerson, Illinois State Archaeological Society and INPC Advisor; Valerie Spale, Salt Creek Greenway Association and INPC Consultant; Kenneth Spale, Salt Creek Greenway Association; Barbara Fell and Jill Kennay, Natural Land Institute; Linda Balek, The Land Conservancy of McHenry County; Tim Girmscheid, Liberty Prairie Conservancy; Fran Harty, The Nature Conservancy (TNC); Kathleen O'Conner, Libertyville Township; James and Marilyn Anderson, representing the proposed McFarland Hill Land and Water Reserve; Jim Anderson, and Tom Hahn, Lake County Forest Preserve District (LCFPD), representing the proposed McLean Woods and Wetlands Nature Preserve; Dave Brandt, Ed Collins, and Kent Krautstrunk, MCCD, representing the proposed addition to Barber Fen Nature Preserve, the proposed addition to Bystricky Prairie Nature Preserve, the proposed addition to Lind Forest Nature Preserve, and the proposed Slough Creek Fen Nature Preserve; Tom Clay, Illinois Audubon Society and INPC Consultant, representing the proposed Hartman Spring Nature Preserve; Maury Brucker, Stu Ellison, Mary Ann Harrison, David Holman, Lynne Sobezak, Joyce Weber, and Emiko Yang.

209-2) Adoption of Agenda

Item 17 will be presented after Item 9, and Item 11 will be presented after Item 17. Item 19 will be deferred. There was also a correction to the county listed for Item 13. The correct county is McHenry County.

It was moved by Thomas, seconded by Clark, and carried that the Agenda be adopted as amended.

209-3) Approval of the 208th Meeting Minutes, May 3, 2011

It was moved by Dann, seconded by Keating, and carried that the 208th Meeting Minutes, May 3, 2011, be approved.

John Rogner thanked the staff of MCCD for the tour of Fel-Pro Triple R Fen Nature Preserve on September 19, 2011.

Chair Rosenthal reported that at the 208th Meeting of the INPC, held on May 3, 2011, at the National Great Rivers Museum, Alton, legal protection was completed by the Commission for

three tracts of land totaling 246.8 acres. Of these, two areas totaling 196.8 acres are owned by private individuals or for profit or not-for-profit corporations who donated the value of the protection agreement to the public. This private land was permanently preserved without further acquisition of the land by the state. The dollar value of the tracts of private land is \$916,000 based on conservative estimates of the fair market value of the land. Private lands protected without state acquisition at INPC's 208th Meeting were White Rock Land and Water Reserve, Monroe County; and Sweetwater Creek addition and buffer addition to Boone Creek Fen Nature Preserve, McHenry County. Protection of this land came about because the Commission has eight staff in the field working with private landowners. There are now 355 dedicated nature preserves in 83 counties totaling 49,903.817 acres and 162 land and water reserves in 66 counties totaling 45,929.882 acres.

209-4) Proposed 2012 Meeting Schedule

January 24, 2012 – Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Springfield

May 8, 2012 – Northwestern, Illinois, Location to be determined

September 18, 2012 – Monroe County Annex Building, Waterloo

After some discussion, it was decided to choose another date for the third meeting of the 2012 schedule. The Commissioners will be notified of the rescheduled date, and the meeting schedule will be published in the State newspaper as required by the Open Meetings Act.

It was moved by Covington, seconded by Clark, and carried that the first two meetings of the 2012 meeting schedule be approved as presented.

209-5) Election of Advisors and Consultants

Dr. Keating stated that the Commission currently has ten advisors which include three statutory advisors. The statutory advisors are Marc Miller, Director of the IDNR, Dr. Brian Anderson, Illinois Natural History Survey, and Dr. Bonnie Styles, Illinois State Museum. The current advisors are Dr. Mike Demissie, Illinois State Water Survey; Dr. Manohar Kulkarni, Illinois Sustainable Technology Center; Dr. E. Donald McKay, III, Illinois State Geological Survey; Dr. Gary Miller, Prairie Research Institute; Dr. William W. Shilts, Prairie Research Institute; and Robert Weichert, Illinois Historic Preservation Agency.

Commissioner Keating stated that Janet Grimes, Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, has requested that Chuck Giger, Division Manager of Administrative Services, take Robert Weichert's place and serve as an advisor to the Commission.

It was moved by Keating, seconded by Thomas, and carried that the following be elected as advisors to the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission: Dr. Mike Demissie, Dr. Thomas E. Emerson, Chuck Giger, Dr. Manohar R. Kulkarni, Dr. E. Donald McKay, III, Dr. Gary Miller, and Dr. William W. Shilts.

Commissioner Keating stated that the Commission currently has 13 consultants: Gerald Adelmann, Jill Allread, Marilyn Campbell, Tom Clay, Harry Drucker, Kenneth Fiske, Jerry Paulson, Joseph Roth, Bruce Ross-Shannon, John Schwegman, Valerie Spale, Leslee Spraggins, and John White.

Commissioner Keating stated that the nominating committee would like to suggest the addition of three individuals to the list of consultants: Dr. Ronald Flemal, Fran Harty, and James Mann.

It was moved by Keating, seconded by Covington, and carried that the following be elected as consultants to the Commission: Gerald Adelmann, Jill Allread, Marilyn Campbell, Tom Clay, Harry Drucker, Kenneth Fiske, Dr. Ronald Flemal, Fran Harty, James Mann, Jerry Paulson, Joseph Roth, Bruce Ross-Shannon, John Schwegman, Valerie Spale, Leslee Spraggins, and John White.

209-6) INPC Staff Report

Randy Heidorn presented the INPC staff report attached as Exhibit A. Mr. Heidorn stated that the Director of the Illinois Natural History Survey and the Director of the Illinois State Museum are required by Statute to make recommendations to the Governor for additional appointments. Four recommendations were submitted, and the Governor acted on one of the recommendations by appointing Dennis Clark. The other recommendations were being reviewed by the Governor's office.

Jenny Skufca highlighted items from the defense program. She stated that five large scale threats were referred to the Illinois Attorney General's Office. Three were referred by the IDNR's Office of Legal Council: timber theft at Tallmadge Sand Forest Land and Water Reserve; sediment encroachment to Middlefork Savanna Nature Preserve; and herbicide encroachment at Short Fork Seep Nature Preserve. Two referrals were made by the legal staff from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA): crude oil pipeline break at Romeoville Prairie Nature Preserve; and the concern about road salt storage near Bluff Spring Fen Nature Preserve.

Ms. Skufca stated that the INPC was continuing to submit Class III groundwater petitions to the IEPA to enhance protection of the groundwater recharge areas of nature preserves. This protection has been achieved for 15 nature preserves. Six nature preserves are currently under review by the IEPA, and six are being researched by the Illinois State Geological Survey and Commission staff.

Kelly Neal stated that the resident interns were working with natural areas preservation specialist staff to enhance their plant and animal identification skills. They were also participating in stewardship activities.

Ms. Neal stated that staff have been doing monitoring during the growing season and assessing threatened and endangered species populations.

209-7) IDNR Staff Report

Maggie Cole presented the IDNR staff report attached as Exhibit B.

Jim Herkert presented the 2011 Volunteer of the Year award to David Holman for his volunteer work for the IDNR and the INPC. Mr. Holman has mapped over 400 nature preserves and land and water reserve boundaries, and he has been reviewing the legal descriptions. Dr. Herkert stated that Mr. Holman was a dedicated volunteer who was very skilled in this type of work, and

the Department was extremely grateful for work that Mr. Holman has done on behalf of the Department.

Randy Heidorn presented Mr. Holman with a special plaque in appreciation for his volunteer work on behalf of the Commission.

Commissioner Covington stated that Mr. Holman has also helped the Liberty Prairie Conservancy and Libertyville Township with the review of legal descriptions, and he has performed an invaluable service.

209-8) Endangered Species Protection Board Report

Anne Mankowski presented the ESPB report attached as Exhibit C.

Chair Rosenthal stated that the registration agreements for today's land and water reserve presentation have been signed and executed by the landowners as required by administrative rule.

209-9) Logan Co. – Tract #1 Addition to North Elkhart Hill Grove Land and Water Reserve, Registration

Tom Lerczak presented a proposal on behalf of Mrs. Gillette M. Ransom for the permanent registration of 15.83 acres in two parcels (12.33 acres and 3.5 acres), known as Tract #1, as an addition to North Elkhart Hill Grove Land and Water Reserve. The Land and Water Reserve and proposed addition are located about 14 miles northeast of Springfield in the Springfield Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division. North Elkhart Hill Grove supports grade B and grade C mesic upland forest with canopy species that include blue ash (*Fraxinus quadrangulata*), American basswood (*Tilia americana*), yellow chestnut oak (*Quercus muhlenbergii*), black walnut (*Juglans nigra*), and sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*). The Tract #1 proposed addition is not listed on the INAI, and contains a mixture of grade C and grade D mesic upland forest with many of the same species as the Land and Water Reserve. Registration of the proposed addition will support the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan (IWAP) through the Invasive Species Campaign, Forest Campaign, and Land and Water Stewardship Campaign. The proposed addition serves as a necessary adjunct to the Land and Water Reserve by helping to protect high-quality areas from the effects of nearby row-crop agriculture, cattle pastures, and exurban developments. Registration of this addition will increase the area under protection at North Elkhart Hill Grove Land and Water Reserve to 51.87 acres.

Mr. Lerczak presented the allowable uses and grazing management plan for the site which are explained in detail in the registration proposal.

It was moved by Covington, seconded by Clark, and carried that the following resolution be adopted:

The Commission grants approval for the registration of the Tract #1 addition to North Elkhart Hill Grove Land and Water Reserve in Logan County, as described in the proposal presented under Item 9 of the Agenda for the 209th Meeting.

(Resolution 2148)

Chair Rosenthal asked Mr. Lerczak to convey the thanks of the Commission to Mrs. Ransom.

209-10) Pike Co. – McFarland Hill Land and Water Reserve, Registration
(Actually presented after Item 11)

Ray Geroff presented a proposal on behalf of Marilyn Anderson for permanent registration of 95 acres as McFarland Hill Land and Water Reserve. The property is located in the Middle Mississippi Border Natural Division near New Canton. The proposed land and water reserve contains important archaeological features. The site is unique in that it contains one of the only known village sites of the Mississippian Age within the region. McFarland Hill represents a rare example of a virtually intact 14th century Mississippian Tradition nucleated village. The site is considered highly unique in terms of its outstanding preservation as well as its cultural content. Even though the village site has been cultivated for agricultural production, the plowing has brought to the surface a rich array of prehistoric artifacts including stone tools, pieces of ceramic pots, animal bone and mollusk shell, burned timbers and detritus of everyday life from seven centuries ago. An examination of the recovered artifacts and organic materials indicate that preservation within the site is excellent with the vast majority of the archaeological features still intact. In addition to the archaeological features there are also six species in greatest need of conservation found on the property, these include yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*), northern flicker (*Colaptes auratus*), northern bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*), yellow-breasted chat (*Icteria virens*), Kentucky warbler (*Oporornis formosus*), and American woodcock (*Scolopax minor*). This site is included in the Route 96 Hill Prairie Conservation Opportunity Area of the IWAP.

It was moved by McClain, seconded by Keating, and carried that the following resolution be adopted:

The Commission grants approval for registration of McFarland Hill in Pike County as an Illinois land and water reserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 10 of the Agenda for the 209th Meeting.

(Resolution 2149)

Marilyn Anderson thanked everyone involved in the registration of McFarland Hill.

Chair Rosenthal thanked Mr. and Mrs. Anderson for preserving the site.

209-11) Kankakee Co. – Addition to Carl N. Becker Savanna Nature Preserve, Dedication
(Actually presented after Item 17)

Eric Smith presented a proposal on behalf of the IDNR for preliminary approval for dedication of 77 acres located in Kankakee County as an addition to the Carl N. Becker Savanna Nature Preserve. This acreage is part of the Leesville Savanna Illinois Natural Areas Inventory site (INAI #1006), which is collectively owned by the IDNR, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and private landowners. In 2009 and 2010, TNC dedicated its holdings as the Carl N. Becker Savanna Nature Preserve. The IDNR wishes to help complete preserve design of this site by

dedicating its qualifying acreage as a nature preserve addition. The 77 acres lie within the Kankakee Sand Area Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division, which is recognized by the IWAP as a Conservation Opportunity Area. Leesville Savanna is included on the INAI for its grade B dry and dry-mesic sand savannas, grade B sand flatwoods, and for the presence of 12 state-listed species: yellow wild indigo (*Baptisia tinctoria*), crowded oval sedge (*Carex cumulata*), narrow-leaved sundew (*Drosera intermedia*), northern cranesbill (*Geranium bicknellii*), old plainsman (*Hymenopappus scabiosaeus*), shore St. John's wort (*Hypericum adpressum*), orange fringed orchid (*Platanthera ciliaris*), Carey's smartweed (*Polygonum careyi*), bristly blackberry (*Rubus setosus*), eastern blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium atlanticum*), primrose violet (*Viola primulifolia*), and regal fritillary butterfly (*Speyeria idalia*). Ten of these state-listed species occur within the proposed addition. The proposed addition to the Nature Preserve will provide another 77 acres of the Leesville Savanna INAI with the highest protection offered by the state of Illinois and will protect additional habitat for many plants and animals of conservation concern. This IDNR addition will make the Carl N. Becker Savanna Nature Preserve 155-acres in size which will facilitate uniform management of this important site to maintain its unique landscape character.

It was moved by Dann, seconded by Thomas, and carried that the following resolution be adopted:

The Commission grants preliminary approval for dedication of an addition to Carl N. Becker Savanna Nature Preserve in Kankakee County, as described in the proposal presented under Item 11 of the Agenda for the 209th Meeting.

(Resolution 2150)

209-12) Lake Co. – McLean Woods and Wetlands Nature Preserve, Dedication
(Actually presented after Item 10)

Jim Anderson presented a proposal on behalf of the LCFPD for preliminary approval for dedication of 532 acres of the 2751.7-acre Lakewood Forest Preserve as McLean Woods and Wetlands Nature Preserve. The proposed nature preserve includes 417.7 acres as nature preserve and 114.3 acres as buffer. The proposed nature preserve honors the support of the McLean family and is located in the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in southwestern Lake County, within the Lake-McHenry Wetlands Complex Conservation Opportunity Area. The proposed nature preserve includes grade C/D dry-mesic forest and grade C/D freshwater marsh and extensive natural community reconstructions. The proposed nature preserve also supports populations of a state-endangered reptile, eight state-endangered birds: the American bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*), black tern (*Chlidonias niger*), common moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*), black-crowned night heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*), osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), Forester's tern (*Sterna forsteri*), common tern (*Sterna hirundo*), and yellow-headed black bird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*). There are also three state-threatened bird species: the black-billed cuckoo (*Cucyzyus erythrophthalmus*), cerulean warbler (*Dendroica cerulea*), and least bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*). Protection and stewardship of the proposed McLean Woods and Wetlands Nature Preserve supports action #1 and #2 of the IWAP Wetlands Campaign "... to improve the condition of existing and artificial wetlands" and develop additional wetland habitat; action #3 of the Farmland and Prairie Campaign for restoring and enhancing acreage for rare/extirpated

species (specifically prairies and grassland nesting birds), and actions #1 and #2 of the Forest Campaign to “maintain and enhance forest composition, increase acreage/habitat connectivity, and management of forest communities.”

Mr. Anderson discussed the allowable uses and reserved rights which are outlined in detail in the dedication proposal.

It was moved by Dann, seconded by Covington, and carried that the following resolution be adopted:

The Commission grants preliminary approval for dedication of McLean Woods and Wetlands in Lake County as an Illinois nature preserve as described in the proposal presented under Item 12 of the Agenda for the 209th Meeting.

(Resolution 2151)

Chair Rosenthal asked that the thanks of the Commission be relayed to the LCFPD board.

209-13) McHenry Co. – Nature Preserve Addition and Buffer Addition to Barber Fen Nature Preserve, Dedication

Steven Byers presented a proposal on behalf of the MCCD for preliminary approval for dedication of a 71.3-acre addition (44 acres as nature preserve and 27.3 acres as buffer) to the 18.5-acre Barber Fen Nature Preserve. Barber Fen Nature Preserve is owned by Rodney and Libbie Aavang and was dedicated as an Illinois nature preserve in November, 1990 at the Commission’s 130th Meeting (Resolution 1064). Barber Fen Nature Preserve and the proposed addition are located in the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in McHenry County, within the Lake-McHenry Wetlands Complex Conservation Opportunity Area and the MCCD’s Queen Anne Macrosite. The Nature Preserve and much of the proposed addition lie within the Barber Fen INAI site (#1267) and a portion of the Nippersink Creek INAI site (#1506). The proposed addition includes grade B/C sedge meadow, grade B/C graminoid fen, grade C mesic forest, grade C wet-mesic floodplain forest, high-quality low-gradient small stream and pond aquatic communities, and old field and pastureland cultural communities. To date, 341 native plant species have been recorded from the Nature Preserve and proposed addition, and the site supports the state-endangered nodding trillium (*Trillium cernuum*) and state-threatened pale vetchling (*Lathyrus ochroleucus*). The creek and adjacent wetlands support a state-endangered reptile, the state-threatened least bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*) and two mussels (spike [*Elliptio dilatata*] and slippershell mussel [*Alasmidonta viridis*]). Extensive wildlife surveys conducted by the MCCD report 12 bird, eight fish, two reptile, four mussel and six butterfly species from the site that are identified by the IWAP as species in greatest need of conservation. Protection and stewardship of the proposed addition supports action #1 of the Wetlands Campaign “... to improve the condition of existing and artificial wetlands” and action #6 of the Streams Campaign “...to restore and manage high-quality examples of all river, stream, lake, and pond communities...” Dedication of the proposed addition will increase Barber Fen Nature Preserve from 18.5 to 89.8 acres and honor the Aavang’s vision for land protection. This proposal reserves the right for the MCCD to conduct a master planning process to determine appropriate public access and recreation opportunities in accordance with INPC guidelines.

Mr. Byers discussed the allowable uses and reserved rights which are outlined in detail in the dedication proposal.

It was moved by Thomas, seconded by Keating, and carried that the following resolution be adopted:

The Commission grants preliminary approval for dedication of an addition and buffer addition to Barber Fen Nature Preserve in Lake County, as described in the proposal presented under Item 13 of the Agenda for the 209th Meeting.

(Resolution 2152)

209-14) McHenry Co. –Buffer Addition to Bystricky Prairie Nature Preserve, Dedication

Steven Byers presented a proposal on behalf of the MCCD for preliminary approval for dedication of 122.3 acres as a buffer addition to the 17.4-acre Bystricky Prairie Nature Preserve. Bystricky Prairie was owned by Joseph and Harriet Bystricky when the site was dedicated as an Illinois nature preserve in September, 1987 at the Commission's 115th Meeting (Resolution 956). Bystricky Prairie Nature Preserve and the proposed buffer addition are located in the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in McHenry County, within the Lake-McHenry Wetlands Complex Conservation Opportunity Area and the MCCD's Queen Anne Macrosite. The proposed buffer addition encompasses nearly all the Slough Creek Sedge Meadow INAI site (#0715) and includes grade C/D sedge meadow, grade C/D wet-mesic prairie, grade C/D low-gradient small stream, and two cultural communities consisting of an old field and community reconstruction. To date, 249 native plant species have been recorded from the Nature Preserve and proposed buffer addition including a federally-listed species, two state-listed orchids, state-endangered tall sunflower (*Helianthus giganteus*), downy yellow painted cup (*Castilleja sessiflora*), queen-of-the-prairie (*Filipendula rubra*), and balsam poplar (*Populus balsamifera*). Wildlife surveys conducted by the MCCD report four butterflies (silver-bordered fritillary [*Boloria selene*]; purplish copper [*Lycaena helloides*]; Dion skipper [*Eupheys dion*]; and broad-winged skipper [*Poanes viator*]) and one fish (central mudminnow [*Umbra limi*]) from the site that are identified in the IWAP as species in greatest need of conservation. Protection and stewardship of the proposed addition supports action #1 of the Wetland Campaign to "...improve the condition of existing and natural wetlands." Dedication of the proposed buffer addition will increase Bystricky Prairie Nature Preserve from 17.4 to 139.7 acres and honor Joseph Bystricky's vision for land protection. This proposal reserves the right for the MCCD to conduct a master planning process to determine appropriate public access and recreation opportunities in accordance with INPC guidelines.

Mr. Byers discussed the allowable uses and reserved rights which are outlined in detail in the dedication proposal.

It was moved by Dann, seconded by Covington, and carried that the following resolution be adopted:

The Commission grants preliminary approval for dedication of a buffer addition to Bystricky Prairie Nature Preserve in McHenry County, as described in the proposal presented under Item 14 of the Agenda for the 209th Meeting.

(Resolution 2153)

209-15) McHenry Co. – Nature Preserve Addition and Buffer Addition to Lind Forest Nature Preserve, Dedication

Steven Byers presented a proposal on behalf of the MCCD for preliminary approval for dedication of a 39.13-acre addition (26.07 acres as nature preserve and 13.06 acres as buffer) to the 20-acre Lind Forest Nature Preserve. Lind Forest was owned by Helen Lind when the site was dedicated as an Illinois nature preserve in May, 1993 at the Commission's 139th Meeting (Resolution 1184). The site was acquired by the MCCD in December, 2002. Lind Forest Nature Preserve and the proposed addition are located in the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in McHenry County, within the Lake-McHenry Wetlands Complex Conservation Opportunity Area and the MCCD's Queen Anne Macrosite. The Nature Preserve and a small portion of the proposed addition lie within the Lind Forest INAI site (#1266) and a portion of the Nippersink Creek INAI site (#1506). The proposed addition includes grade B mesic forest, grade C mesic savanna, grade B seep, high-gradient small stream, and a cultural community consisting of pastureland. To date, 218 native plant species have been recorded from the Nature Preserve and proposed addition, and the site supports the state-endangered nodding trillium (*Trillium cernuum*), ill-scented trillium (*T. erectum*), and the state-threatened pale vetchling (*Lathyrus ochroleucus*). Two state-threatened mussels (spike [*Elliptio dilatata*] and slippershell mussel [*Alasmidonta viridis*]) have been documented from Nippersink Creek, and it is likely both occur within the boundary of both the nature preserve and proposed addition. Extensive wildlife surveys of the site conducted by the MCCD report eight fish and four mussel species that are identified by the IWAP as species in greatest need of conservation. Protection and stewardship of the proposed addition supports action #7 of the Forest Campaign "... to restore and manage high-quality examples of all forest communities," action #2b of that Campaign which calls for contributing to "...ecological connectivity among forests and other habitat patches," and action #6 of the Streams Campaign "...to restore and manage high-quality examples of all river, stream, lake, and pond communities..." Dedication of the proposed addition will increase Lind Forest Nature Preserve from 20.0 to 59.13 acres and honor Helen Lind's vision for land protection. This proposal reserves the right for the MCCD to conduct a master planning process to determine appropriate public access and recreation opportunities in accordance with INPC guidelines.

Mr. Byers discussed the allowable uses and reserved rights which are outlined in detail in the dedication proposal.

It was moved by Covington, seconded by Clark, and carried that the following resolution be adopted:

The Commission grants preliminary approval for dedication of an addition and buffer addition to Lind Forest Nature Preserve in McHenry County, as described in the proposal presented under Item 15 of the Agenda for the 209th Meeting.

(Resolution 2154)

209-16) McHenry Co. – Slough Creek Fen Nature Preserve, Dedication

Steven Byers presented a proposal on behalf of the MCCD for preliminary approval for dedication of 40.5 acres as Slough Creek Fen Nature Preserve. The proposed Slough Creek Fen Nature Preserve is located in the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in McHenry County, within the Lake-McHenry Wetlands Complex Conservation Opportunity Area and the MCCD's Queen Anne Macrosite. The proposed nature preserve encompasses most, but not all, of the Standlee Fen INAI site (#1614). The proposed nature preserve includes grade B calcareous floating mat, grade B shrub fen, grade C mesic savanna, grade C/D sedge meadow, a grade C/D low-gradient small stream, and a cultural community (pastureland) awaiting community reconstruction. To date, 226 plant species have been recorded from the proposed nature preserve, including a federally-listed species. Protection and stewardship of the proposed nature preserve supports two of the IWAP Campaigns; action #1 of the Wetlands Campaign "... to improve the condition of existing and artificial wetlands," and action #2b of the Forest Campaign that calls for "...ecological connectivity among forests and other habitat patches." This proposal reserves the right for the MCCD to conduct a master planning process to determine appropriate public access and recreation opportunities in accordance with INPC guidelines.

Mr. Byers discussed the allowable uses and reserved rights which are outlined in detail in the dedication proposal.

It was moved by Covington, seconded by Thomas, and carried that the following resolution be adopted:

The Commission grants preliminary approval for dedication of Slough Creek Fen in McHenry County as an Illinois nature preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 16 of the Agenda for the 209th Meeting.

(Resolution 2155)

Chair Rosenthal thanked the MCCD for bringing these sites before the Commission.

Ed Collins, MMCD, stated that it was nice to see these sites come before the Commission. He stated that it had been a long journey, and it took a cooperative effort to achieve this goal.

Stu Ellison stated that he has learned a great deal from Ed Collins and Steven Byers, and he was happy to be a part of this process.

A lunch break was taken from 12:25 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.

209-17) Pulaski Co. – Hartman Spring Nature Preserve, Dedication
(Actually presented after Item 9)

Scott Ballard presented a proposal on behalf of the Illinois Audubon Society for preliminary approval for dedication of Hartman Spring as an Illinois nature preserve. Hartman Spring is a 40-acre site in the western part of the Cretaceous Hills Section of the Coastal Plain Natural Division, and comprises the Britton Spring INAI site (#0022). Hartman Spring is significant because it contains high-quality habitat for a state-endangered amphibian, as well as exceptional features of a spring and spring run. Protection of the proposed Hartman Spring Nature Preserve supports action steps identified in the IWAP to preserve a state-endangered amphibian, a species in greatest need of conservation, and to improve natural wetland conditions by protecting acres of INAI spring and seep habitat identified by the IWAP Wetlands Campaign.

Mr. Ballard stated that the site would not be open to the general public. The landowner reserved the right to allow flora and fauna studies, and ATV use would be allowed for management activities.

It was moved by McClain, seconded by Keating, and carried that the following resolution be adopted:

The Commission grants preliminary approval for dedication of Hartman Spring in Pulaski County as an Illinois nature preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 17 of the Agenda for the 209th Meeting.

(Resolution 2156)

209-18) Cook Co. – Addition to Wolf Road Prairie Nature Preserve, Dedication
(Actually presented after Item 16)

Steven Byers presented a proposal on behalf of the IDNR for final approval for dedication of two lots, totaling 0.14 acres of dry mesic prairie, as an addition to Wolf Road Prairie Nature Preserve. The Commission granted preliminary approval for dedication of Wolf Road Prairie (including these two lots) at its 111th Meeting in July, 1986 (Resolution 898). Wolf Road Prairie is located in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in Cook County. Wolf Road Prairie Nature Preserve and the proposed two-lot addition are located within the Wolf Road Prairie INAI site (#0251). This INAI site includes grade A/B/C mesic prairie and grade C freshwater marsh. Wolf Road Prairie Nature Preserve is owned in part by the IDNR, the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, and Save the Prairie Society. Protection and stewardship of Wolf Road Prairie and the proposed addition supports the IWAP Campaigns; specifically action steps to restore and manage high-quality prairie and wetland communities.

It was moved by Covington, seconded by Clark, and carried that the following resolution be adopted:

The Commission grants final approval for dedication of an addition to Wolf Road Prairie Nature Preserve in Cook County, as described in the proposal presented under Item 18 of the Agenda for the 209th Meeting.

(Resolution 2157)

209-19) Lake Co. – Sarah and Robert Allgyer Prairie Buffer Addition to Skokie River Nature Preserve, Dedication

Item 19 was deferred at the landowners' request.

209-20) Monroe Co. – White Rock Nature Preserve, Dedication

Debbie Newman presented a proposal on behalf of Clifftop NFP, and Southwestern Illinois Resource Conservation and Development, Inc. for final approval for dedication of White Rock Nature Preserve. The proposed White Rock Nature Preserve is a 306.5-acre site in the bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River floodplain within the Northern Section of the Ozark Natural Division. It is also located within the Bluff Corridor/Karst COA and supports several campaigns identified in the IWAP, including the Forests, Invasive Species, and Land and Water stewardship campaigns. The site consists of five acres of grade A loess hill prairie, and two acres of grade B limestone glade intermingled with 299 acres of grade C mature second growth dry-mesic, mesic, and dry upland forest. The White Rock site encompasses approximately 47 acres of the Monroe City Hill Prairie INAI site (#0199). The site also contains populations of the state-threatened Missouri coneflower (*Rudbeckia missouriensis*), the state-endangered woolly buckthorn (*Bumelia lanuginosa*), and a state-threatened reptile. The proposed nature preserve was previously registered in 2005 by Columbia Quarry Company as the term-limited Columbia Quarry-White Rock Land and Water Reserve. In December 2010, two southwestern Illinois conservation organizations purchased the site, with funding from Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation, the Grand Victoria Foundation, and the State Wildlife Grant program of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Commission conferred preliminary approval for dedication at its 208th Meeting in May, 2011 (Resolution 2140).

It was moved by Thomas, seconded by Dann, and carried that the following resolution be adopted:

The Commission grants final approval for dedication of White Rock in Monroe County as an Illinois nature preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 20 of the Agenda for the 209th Meeting.

(Resolution 2158)

Chair Rosenthal asked that the thanks of the Commission be conveyed to the landowners.

209-21) Jo Daviess Co. – Hanover Bluff Nature Preserve Proposed Parking Lot

Ed Anderson presented a proposal on behalf of the IDNR for approval to construct a small parking lot within the western edge of the dedicated portion of Hanover Bluff Nature Preserve. The approximate 45-foot by 50-foot parking lot would be located off South Whitton Road and would improve management of the significant natural resources at the Nature Preserve. It would also provide a safe location for parking for the public and IDNR/INPC staff. Location of a parking lot at the proposed location would also serve to draw visitors away from the bluffs at the south end of the Nature Preserve which provide the only known birthing and hibernating locations for a state threatened reptile at Hanover Bluff. Construction of the parking lot would

provide a location to install INPC entrance and interpretive signs to inform visitors as to the significance of the Nature Preserve and presence and protected status of the rare natural resources.

Kelly Neal presented the INPC staff recommendation attached as Exhibit D. She stated that typically the Commission allows parking lots in buffer areas. In this particular instance, the request was being made to place the parking lot in a portion of the dedicated nature preserve. The proposed location has been functionally serving as buffer because it was not a high quality area. The Administrative Rules allow the Commission to approve this request. Due to the safety consideration for staff and the public, along with the ease of management access, it would be the recommendation of staff to approve this request with the stipulations outlined in the staff recommendation.

It was moved by Keating, seconded by Thomas, and carried that the following resolution be adopted:

The Commission grants approval for the construction of a small parking lot at Hanover Bluff Nature Preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 21 of the Agenda for the 209th Meeting, subject to the stipulations outlined in the staff recommendation.

(Resolution 2159)

209-22) Election of Officers

Commissioner Keating stated that the nominating committee was pleased to offer in nomination the following individuals: for Chair, Commissioner Rosenthal; Vice-Chair, Commissioner Thomas; and for Secretary, Commissioner Covington.

There were no other nominations from the floor.

It was moved by Keating, seconded by Dann, and carried that the following Commissioners be elected as Officers of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission: Lauren Rosenthal as Chair, David Thomas as Vice-Chair, and George Covington as Secretary.

209-23) Natural Areas Acquisition Fund Fiscal Year 2012 Stewardship Proposals

Bob Szafoni gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Natural Areas Acquisition Fund (NAAF) and the proposed stewardship projects. These projects use monies provided by the NAAF to support management activities on both state and non-state-owned nature preserves and land and water reserves. The FY12 Capital Budget has not been finalized as of this date, so amounts available for Natural Areas Stewardship are not yet known. The IDNR intends to fund as many submitted proposals as funds will permit. The IDNR requests approval of the FY12 NAAF Stewardship Proposal list in anticipation of available funding. The Commissioners were provided with a list of the 26 projects.

Sites/Locations	Region	County	Activity	Amount
DNR				
Cox Creek Hill Prairie LWR	4	Cass	Invasive species control	\$7,500
Flagg Pond	4	Clay	Plantings	\$9,405
Gleason NP/Sparks Pond LWR	4	Mason	Exotic species control	\$6,000
Harlem Hills	1	Winnebago	Invasive species control	\$9,500
IL River Sand Areas LWR	4	Cass	Exotic species control	\$3,500
Matanzas Prairie NP	4	Mason	Invasive species control	\$12,500
Mud Creek Hill Prairie INAI	4	Morgan	Invasive species control	\$5,000
Quiver Prairies INAI	4	Mason	Invasive species control	\$7,500
Revis Hill Prairie NP	4	Mason	Invasive species control	\$7,500
Sparks Pond LWR – Rollo	4	Mason	Invasive species control	\$3,500
Sand Prairie-Scrub Oak NP	4	Mason	Exotic species control	\$7,500
Bohm Woods	4	Madison	Exotic species control	\$6,000
Various NPs, LWRs	5	Various	Prescribed fire	\$30,000
Patterson Savanna LWR	1	Henderson	Invasive species control	\$12,000
Prairie Ridge SNA	5	Jasper	Plantings	\$4,000
Prairie Ridge SNA	5	Jasper	Protection	\$13,000
Prairie Ridge SNA	5	Jasper	Invasive species control	\$15,000
Prairie Ridge SNA	5	Jasper	Invasive species control	\$5,000
Iroquois SWA LWR	3	Iroquois	Invasive species control	\$22,000
Iroquois SWA LWR	3	Iroquois	Exotic species control	\$10,000
Leesville Savanna INAI	3	Kankakee	Hydrology restoration	\$17,000
Upper Sangamon River LWR	3	Piatt	Planting	\$3,500
Upper Sangamon River LWR	3	Piatt	Invasive species control	\$7,000
Upper Sangamon River LWR	3	Piatt	Protection	\$12,000
Non-DNR				
NE Illinois Fen NPs/LWRs	2	Various	Invasive species control	\$10,000
Riverbend LWR	3	Champaign	Exotic species control	\$9,900
26 Projects on INAI sites				\$255,805

Commissioner McClain suggested that an education project should be funded to educate people on what species should be avoided and what species should be planted.

Mr. Szafoni stated that historically the Department has not funded projects along that line; however, it was certainly something that could be addressed in the future as resources become available.

It was moved by McClain, seconded by Dann, and carried that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission approves the Fiscal Year 2012 Natural Areas Acquisition Fund stewardship expenditures as presented under Item 23 of the Agenda for the 209th Meeting.

(Resolution 2160)

209-24) Public Comment Period

There was no public comment.

209-25) Other Business

Chair Rosenthal stated that there were four sets of minutes regarding land acquisition from closed meetings of the Commission included in the Commissioners' packets. The meeting dates were August 2, 2005, May 2, 2006, May 6, 2008, and May 5, 2009. These meetings were closed in accordance with the Open Meetings Act to discuss the purchase of real property. Section 2.06 of the Open Meetings Act provides that public bodies, "shall periodically, but no less than semi-annually, meet to review minutes of all closed sessions. At such meetings, a determination shall be made and reported in an open session that: 1. the need for confidentiality still exists as to all or part of those minutes, or 2. that the minutes or portions thereof no longer require confidential treatment and are available for public inspection."

Randy Heidorn stated that it was the recommendation of the staff of the IDNR that the closed session minutes for August 2, 2005, May 2, 2006, May 6, 2008, and May 5, 2009 remain closed because of the sensitive information relating to land acquisition.

It was moved by Keating, seconded by Covington, and carried that the following resolution be approved:

In accordance with the Open Meetings Act, the closed session minutes from the August 2, 2005, May 2, 2006, May 6, 2008, and May 5, 2009, meetings will remain confidential but will be reviewed semi-annually to ascertain the need to be kept confidential.

(Resolution 2161)

Mr. Heidorn updated the Commissioners on the activities of the INPC taskforce. It was the recommendation of the taskforce that the INPC build a constituency to promote the activities of the Commission. The INPC will also move forward with an annual meeting to announce the INAI update information in late spring of 2012. The meeting will be a one day event held in the Chicago area.

The taskforce recognized the importance of volunteers, and it was recommended that the INPC increase the involvement of those volunteers.

A mechanism to hold money was also recommended by the taskforce. The money would be used for stewardship and would be held separately to eliminate the possibility of being swept for other uses. A 501c3 designation has been discussed.

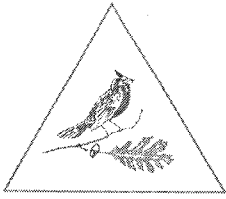
The importance of stewardship was also discussed by the taskforce. The long-term goal was to increase funding for stewardship. There was a realization that public funding would not be available, and that other funding sources were needed. The taskforce recommended building a constituency for those funding sources. The idea of trying to be more efficient was also discussed. Three primary efforts were developed as a stewardship triage. The IDNR is the largest landowner in the INPC programs, but it has the least flexibility in its ability to get money when compared to the local agencies and other organizations. It was felt that money from the NAAF should be spent in the most efficient way with the focus on IDNR lands.

Protection efforts were examined by the taskforce, and it was recommended that staff determine the most efficient way to protect an area. It was also recommended that the Commission increase its efforts toward defense. Easement monitoring was considered to be important in this effort. He stated that Ms. Skufca has been meeting with staff to develop a plan on how to prioritize this effort.

209-26) Adjournment

It was moved by Thomas, seconded by Keating, and carried that the meeting be adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Illinois Nature Preserves Commission
One Natural Resources Way
Springfield, IL 62702
217/785-8686



Illinois
Nature
Preserves
Commission

memorandum

Exhibit A

To: Commissioners
From: Kelly Neal, Jenny Skufca, and Randy Heidorn
Date: September 12, 2011
Subject: Staff Report for the 209th Meeting of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

I. Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC) Operations:

- A. When Riverbend Land and Water Reserve (LWR) was registered as a LWR in 2002, the name was given as Riverbend (one word) in the registration agreement and registration proposal. The Champaign County Forest Preserve District which owns the site now refers to it as River Bend LWR (two words, both capitalized) and requests that INPC do the same. The site is located within River Bend Forest Preserve and changing the name to River Bend LWR will be consistent with the name of the Forest Preserve. The INPC will use the name River Bend LWR on documents for the site in the future.
- B. Randy Heidorn coordinated the preparation of recommendations for appointments to the INPC by Advisors to the INPC, Dr. Brian Anderson (Director of the Illinois Natural History Survey) and Dr. Bonnie Styles (Director of the State Museum) through Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Assistant Director John Rogner. Four recommendations were forwarded to the Governor's Office.
- C. The Governor appointed Dennis Clark of Winfield, Illinois to replace Dr. Ron Flemal, whose term had expired on June 30, 2011. Staff began the process of orienting Mr. Clark and making changes to mailing lists and web pages.
- D. The INPC Task Force met in Chicago at the Environmental Law and Policy Center on June 8, 2011. Subsequently, INPC staff assembled work groups on defense and stewardship efforts. The work groups have been meeting to develop strategies to more efficiently defend conservation easements and to prioritize how stewardship efforts are conducted. Additional discussion will take place during the other business portion of the 209th INPC meeting.
- E. Randy Heidorn, Kelly Neal, Jenny Skufca and Debbie Reider continued to interact and assist in administrative processes and budgetary planning within the Office of Resource Conservation (ORC). This has included regular attendance at ORC management meetings, fiscal oversight committee meetings, fiscal year (FY) 2012 INPC Spend Plan and FY 2013 INPC budget preparation, and strategic planning.
- F. Mary Kay Solecki reviewed all protection proposals and nature preserve (NP) and LWR documents for the 209th INPC meeting and provided staff support concerning NP dedications and LWR registrations.
- G. John Nelson, Angella Moorehouse, Debbie Newman and Bob Edgin provided training, instruction and guidance to interns assigned to work with them: Russell Heinrichs, Ray Geroff, Hannah Kalk (also working with IDNR District Heritage Biologist [DHB] Marty Kemper) and Stefanie Ervin assigned respectively with above INPC staff. Resident interns have been taking basic training and obtaining certification as appropriate on prescribed fire, herbicide use, GIS application and INPC operations and processes.

II. Training, Presentations, and Meetings Attended:

- A. INPC staff and resident interns worked at the Natural Heritage/INPC/Endangered Species Protection Board (ESPB) tent at the Illinois State Fair in Springfield.
- B. Randy Heidorn participated in the Illinois Association of Conservation and Forest Preserve Districts meeting in Byron.
- C. Randy Heidorn, Angella Moorehouse and Ray Geroff represented the INPC at the meeting of the Illinois Wildlife Action Team.
- D. Randy Heidorn, Kelly Neal, Jenny Skufca, Angella Moorehouse, Tom Lerczak, Ray Geroff, Hannah Kalk, Debbie Reider and Stefanie Ervin participated in a State partners meeting sponsored by IDNR's Division of Natural Heritage which included the Division of Natural Heritage, the ESPB and the INPC.
- E. John Nelson:
 1. Participated in a dedication ceremony for the City of Woodstock's Westwood Park addition to Yonder Prairie NP.

2. Gave a presentation on NPs, with the assistance of Russell Heinrichs, to landowners adjacent to Boloria Fen and Sedge Meadow NP. The meeting was coordinated by the Boone Creek Watershed Alliance.
 3. Represented the INPC at the Boy Scout Canyon Camp 75th Anniversary celebration and presentation of the Wiley addition to Apple River Canyon LWR.
- F. Russell Heinrichs began compiling information in Region I for the NP and LWR Directory.
- G. Steven Byers :
1. Provided a presentation about the INPC at the Lake Forest Open Lands Annual Meeting.
 2. Gave a presentation at the 151st ESPB meeting on the proposed Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge and presented the INPC report.
 3. Provided a presentation regarding the proposed Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge at the Illinois Audubon's annual meeting.
- H. Kim Roman:
- a. Attended the annual Friends of the Kankakee member meeting.
 - b. Attended and participated in the Spring on the Savanna, an annual event in the Kankakee Sands hosted by The Nature Conservancy (TNC).
 2. Angella Moorehouse and Ray Geroff attended the Midwest Wildfire Training Academy in Jefferson City, Missouri. Ms. Moorehouse received certification in Rx 410, Smoke Management Techniques. Mr. Geroff received certification for S133/S290 Intermediate Wildland Fire Behavior.
- I. Tom Lerczak attended the Bradley University Summer Research Symposium.
- J. Mary Kay Solecki led an orchid, wildflower and bald eagle viewing walk at Orchid Hill Natural Heritage Landmark (NHL).
- K. Debbie Newman:
1. Participated in and co-facilitated permitted BioBlitz activities at Salt Lick Point LWR with more than 60 scientists inventorying the site, and led a hike for the public to view the scientists at work. Ms. Newman coordinated speakers, trail guides, and the INPC display at the Festival of the Bluffs concurrent with the BioBlitz. Ms. Newman also gave three presentations at the Festival. Ms. Newman was joined by Hannah Kalk who prepared a trail interpretive talk for the Festival and assisted with vegetative surveys at the associated BioBlitz.
 2. Received several calls about a state-threatened reptile in the Valmeyer area and educated the public about this species.
- L. Bob Edgin:
1. Conducted an invasive plant species workshop at Beall Woods NP and State Park.
 2. Mr. Edgin and Stefanie Ervin represented the INPC at the Illinois Invasive Plant Species Council meeting.

III. Inventory and Monitoring:

- A. Randy Heidorn (voting INPC representative), Kelly Neal, Jenny Skufca, Bob Edgin and Ray Geroff participated in the Natural Areas Evaluation Committee (NAEC) meetings. Field staff reviewed proposals that were presented to the NAEC.
- B. Several INPC staff assisted Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI) update staff with landowner contact to allow update staff to gain access to areas.
- C. John Nelson performed site inspections at six privately owned NPs.
- D. Russell Heinrichs:
 1. Met with the landowner representative of Searls Park Prairie NP for a site evaluation.
 2. Assisted in capturing sandhill crane (*Grus Canadensis*) colts for a mortality study
- E. Kim Roman:
 1. Coordinated and assisted with a permitted ornate box turtle (*Terrapene ornate*) survey (using trained dogs) in the Kankakee Sands.
 2. Assisted the INAI update staff in the evaluation of potential INAI sites in the Kankakee Sands.
 3. Assisted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) with the count of a federally listed plant species at Hildy Prairie NP.
- F. Angella Moorehouse conducted site surveillance of 34 sites enrolled in INPC programs and 16 unprotected INAI sites.
- G. Angella Moorehouse and Ray Geroff assisted botanists with the INAI update in landowner contacts and field data collection for the re-evaluation of 12 Category I INAI sites (high-quality plant communities).
- H. Ray Geroff:

1. Assisted streams biologists from the Illinois Natural History Survey in mussel sampling of several streams near Peoria.
 2. Established a permitted research project at Harry N. Patterson Savanna LWR and Bald Bluff Hill Prairie INAI Site in northern Henderson County to census the abundance and diversity of native bees utilizing two different high-quality natural areas (sand prairie and loess hill prairie). He is collaborating on this project with Dr. Ken McCravy (Western Illinois University) and is working with Sam Droege, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and Dr. Jason Gibbs (Cornell University) regarding identification and verification of specimens.
- I. Tom Lerczak:
1. Conducted a quantitative survey of woody vegetation at Dirksen-McNaughton Woods LWR.
 2. Monitored compliance of conservation easements or dedications at 19 sites.
 3. Conducted photo documentation at Chiquapin Bluffs LWR, Dirksen-McNaughton Woods LWR, North Elkhart Hill Grove LWR, and Meredosia Hill Prairie NP.
- J. Mary Kay Solecki:
1. Participated in searches for a state-endangered reptile.
 2. Coordinated volunteer monitoring of a bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) nest on the Middle Fork of the Vermilion River.
 3. Monitored the state-threatened fibrous-rooted sedge (*Carex communis*) at Orchid Hill NHL.
 4. Conducted a floristic and natural values inventory of the Dolan tract adjacent to Warbler Woods NP and discovered a new population of the state-threatened fibrous-rooted sedge at the tract.
 5. Monitored the state-endangered Sangamon phlox (*Phlox pilosa*) at Smith House NHL, Alexander's Dell NHL and nearby areas.
- K. Debbie Newman conducted an annual survey of the state-endangered crested coralroot orchids (*Hexalectris spicata*) at four NPs, LWRs, and NHLs.
- L. Hannah Kalk:
1. Surveyed the state-endangered crested coralroot orchids at two sites in the southwestern Illinois bluff corridor.
 2. Collected and entered data into breeding bird databases for INPC surveys (2010-2011).
 3. Developed and managed plant databases for current and proposed INPC sites.
- M. Bob Edgin:
1. Assisted with a survey for a state-endangered reptile at Carlyle Lake.
 2. Assisted with prothonotary warbler (*Protonotaria citre*) nest box monitoring at Flag Pond LWR.
 3. Evaluated one site proposed for the INAI by the update team.
 4. Conducted site surveillance at Ramsey Railroad Prairie NP, Robert Ridgway Grasslands NP, Robeson Hills NP, Horn Prairie Grove LWR, Richard R. and Jean W. Graber Grasslands LWR.
- N. Bob Edgin and Stefanie Ervin:
1. Conducted royal catchfly (*Silene regia*) monitoring at eight sites in Lawrence and Jasper counties.
 2. Conducted eastern ribbon snake (*Thamnophis sauritus*) and copperbelly water snake (*Nerodia erythrogaster neglecta*) surveys at Chauncey Marsh NP and LWR and Carroll T. Cox Forest NHL.
 3. Assisted an IDNR DHB with investigation of a reported kudzu (*Pueraria lobata*) population in Fayette County.
 4. Conducted grass-leaved lily (*Stenanthium gramineum*) monitoring at one site.
 5. Conducted woody and herbaceous species sampling at Lake Sara Flatwoods NHL to determine changes resulting from repeated prescribed burning.
- O. Stefanie Ervin assisted the IDNR/INPC staff with:
1. Vernal pond plant surveys in Jasper County.
 2. Mussel surveys along the Little Wabash River.
 3. Barn owl (*Tyto alba*) surveys and nest box installation.
 4. Herpetology surveys at Red Hills State Park and Crawford County Conservation Area.

IV. Protection Program:

- A. Staff met with landowners and managers to plan and draft protection proposals that are on the agenda of the 209th meeting.
- B. Jenny Skufca provided support to a volunteer conducting a statewide digital mapping effort to update INPC site maps utilizing legal descriptions.

- C. Randy Heidorn met with the professional leadership of the Boy Scouts Blackhawk Area Council to discuss their satisfaction and interest in protecting lands owned by that organization which are enrolled in INPC programs.
 - D. John Nelson:
 - 1. Gave a presentation to the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District board about the INPC and proposed expansion of Sugar River Alder NP and Colored Sands Bluff NP.
 - 2. Began drafting two new NP dedication proposals, one new LWR proposal and completed two registration proposals on behalf of the IDNR.
 - 3. Met with private landowners of three different sites to discuss possible land protection.
 - E. John Nelson and Russell Heinrichs met with landowners of two publically owned sites for site and stewardship evaluation and possible future dedication.
 - F. Russell Heinrichs:
 - 1. Met with two private landowners to discuss the possibility of buffer additions to the potential Nachusa Grasslands Site.
 - 2. Prepared photo documentation for additions to Black-Crown Marsh LWR and Apple River Canyon.
 - G. Steven Byers:
 - 1. Attended local watershed, green-infrastructure planning meetings for McHenry County.
 - 2. Attended a meeting with the Assistant to the General Superintendent of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County (FPDCC) and provided a presentation about the INPC.
 - 3. Provided a presentation for a McHenry County Conservation District (MCCD) Board of Trustees meeting regarding dedication of four sites in the Queen Anne Macrosite. Also discussed Alden Sedge Meadow and additions to Elizabeth Lake NP. Met with staff of the MCCD regarding HUM prairies and provided a draft of instrument of dedication.
 - 4. Had discussions with the Lake County Forest Preserve District (LCFPD) regarding protection of a portion of Lakewood Forest Preserve to be known as McLean Woods and Wetlands NP.
 - 5. Prepared an instrument of dedication for the proposed Markahm Prairie-East NP for TNC.
 - 6. Met with the Liberty Prairie Conservancy and a consultant with Fields of Cambridge Sedge Meadow and Prairie as part of an effort to secure protection of an adjacent 20-acre tract and to resolve the status of an 8-acre tract located adjacent to the site that received preliminary approval for dedication from the INPC.
 - H. Kim Roman:
 - 1. Contacted two landowners of the Leesville Savanna INAI site.
 - 2. Met with the neighbors of Hildy Prairie NP and Long Run Seep NP.
 - 3. Met with the Forest Preserve District of Will County (FPDWC) to evaluate McKinley Woods for inclusion into the NP system.
 - I. Angella Moorehouse:
 - 1. Maintained landowner contact with owners of 25 sites enrolled in INPC programs.
 - 2. Contacted landowners of nine unprotected natural areas.
 - J. Tom Lerczak:
 - 1. Established landowner contacts for 16 natural areas, NPs, LWRs, or NHLs.
 - 2. Provided information and guidance to Samantha Worthington, IDNR resident intern, for a NP addition proposal.
 - K. Bob Edgin:
 - 1. Contacted owners of four unprotected sites on the INAI to discuss protection options.
 - 2. Contacted owners of ten protected sites to discuss protection and management issues.
 - 3. Enrolled two sites in the NHL program.
 - 4. Assisted Prairie Ridge staff in identifying boundaries of LWRs using a GPS.
- I. Land Acquisition:**
- A. Russell Heinrichs met twice with Ducks Unlimited concerning future land acquisition and funding for select McHenry County sites.
 - B. Tom Lerczak worked with a private landowner to facilitate a land donation to the IDNR.
 - C. Mary Kay Solecki:
 - 1. Wrote an assessment on conservation values of a tract adjacent to Warbler Woods NP for the Illinois Audubon and Grand Prairie Friends as they seek funding for acquiring tract as an addition to Warbler Woods NP.
 - 2. Advised the Champaign County Forest Preserve District on possible land acquisition near a NP and researched past transactions/access issues.

II. Defense Program:

A. Jenny Skufca:

1. Responded to two reviews for IDNR's Comprehensive Environmental Review Program (CERP) and 12 reviews for IDNR's consultation program.
2. Class III Groundwater Petition update –
 - a. Provided requested supplementary reports to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) related to their current review of six Class III Groundwater petition packets, including George B. Fell NP, Spring Grove Fen NP, Goose Lake Prairie NP, Trout Park NP, Cotton Creek Marsh NP, and Gladstone Fen NP and INAI (which encompasses Boger Bog NP).
 - b. Received approval from the IDNR for extension of the Illinois State Geological Survey's (ISGS) contract until March 31, 2012, for the preparation of future Class III petitions, sustained groundwater monitoring efforts in NPs, and timely hydrogeological consulting related to NPs.
 - c. Received three completed groundwater reports from the ISGS for Searls Park Prairie NP, Sand Ridge NP, and Yonder Prairie NP. These will be amended into the INPC petitions to be submitted to the IEPA for review.
3. Facilitated contact between biologists and two electric cooperatives related to vegetative management along shared boundaries with INPC sites to discover easements and discuss areas of concern.
4. Met with staff from the IDNR Office of Realty and Environmental Planning and IDNR Conservation Stewardship Program to begin discussions on standard easement monitoring.
5. Participated in conference calls with IDNR's DHB Brad Semel and document review with the Office of the Attorney General, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), and IEPA related to the Work Plan for Closure of the Industrial Canal, Pumping Lagoon, and Collection Basin at the Johns Manville Site in Waukegan adjacent to the southern boundary of Illinois Beach NP.
6. Worked with IEPA and IDNR's Contaminant Assessment Section staff to review the Focused Site Investigation Report related to the crude oil pipeline break and subsequent clean-up at Romeoville Prairie NP.
7. Worked with IDNR Office of Land Management and Office of Legal Counsel staff to prompt the removal of a web citation advertising an unauthorized and potentially dangerous activity (kayaking) at Piney Creek Ravine NP.
8. Met with IDNR IT staff regarding development of a defense database aligned with the INPC's current site database.

B. John Nelson, Steven Byers, Kim Roman, Jenny Skufca and Russell Heinrichs met with IDNR's Partners for Conservation staff to discuss prioritization, protocol, limitations, and reporting on INPC easement monitoring. The next step will be the formation of a Real Estate Monitoring Committee, per recommendation from the Task Force.

C. Russell Heinrichs photo documented operations of Spruce Lake Sand and Gravel to report on conditions of court-ordered mitigation adjacent to Volo Bog NP.

D. Steven Byers:

1. Corresponded with the Village of Batavia regarding a proposed zoning change that could allow residential development in an open space corridor that extends west and immediately upstream of Mooseheart Ravine INAI site. The increased development and proposed land use changes would alter the surface hydrology of Mill Creek and threaten the unique features of this site.
2. Reviewed and provided comments related to the "Move Illinois: *The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*" proposal including support of best management practices and identification of INPC sites as potentially appropriate mitigation opportunities.

E. Tom Lerczak monitored and documented installation of new power line poles and maintenance activities at Meredosia Hill Prairie NP along road rights of way adjacent to NP boundaries.

F. Mary Kay Solecki:

1. Reviewed a permit for expansion of a sand and gravel mine and possible impacts on the nearby Embarras River LWR.
2. Responded to concerns regarding the condition and appearance of cemetery savanna expressed by a relative whose ancestor is buried in the cemetery at Tomlinson Cemetery Prairie and Savanna NP.
3. Contacted the Conservation Police Officer and worked with landowner regarding recent ATV and horse trespass at Rocky Branch NP.

G. Bob Edgin administered the contract for a boundary survey at Big Creek Woods Memorial NP.

H. Threats to Sites within INPC programs:

1. **Volo Bog NP, Lake County – John Nelson**
 - a. Issue: A volunteer noticed a foul odor emanating from a specific area on the south side of the NP.
 - b. Threat: Potential contamination suspected from a blow-out of a deteriorated drain tile.
 - c. Status: Resolved. The IEPA investigated and determined that the odor was the result of anaerobic decomposition occurring at an offsite pond with water discharging to the site from an old drain tile. Ensuring that the drain tile output will not impact the site will now be considered a management priority.
2. **Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid NP, Lake County – Steven Byers**
 - a. Issue: The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) intends to widen Route 22. The proposal for dedication of this site provided for this construction. Plans include construction of a berm in order to reduce the width of the road project.
 - b. Threat: Indirect threat posed by sedimentation and subsequent increase in reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), which threatens long-term viability of a federally-threatened plant.
 - c. Status: Ongoing. The INPC hosted a meeting between IDOT and the Long Grove Park District regarding the ultimate disposition of this privately-owned NP should the site be acquired by IDOT. The Long Grove Park District will accept the subject property, provided sufficient funds are made available for immediate and long-term stewardship of the site.
3. **Middlefork Savanna NP, Lake County – Steven Byers, Jenny Skufca**
 - a. Issue: Adjacent landowner, Knollwood Golf Club, dredged a golf course pond and piped sediment into the NP owned by LCFPD.
 - b. Threat: Direct and indirect impact to aquatic resources/ephemeral ponds in the NP and at Knollwood Club. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) determined that wetlands are “jurisdictional.”
 - c. Status: Ongoing. IDNR Office of Legal Counsel has referred this matter to the Office of the Attorney General.
4. **Elm Road Woods NP, Lake County – Steven Byers, Jenny Skufca**
 - a. Issue: A large sports complex that will require extensive earth-moving is being built upstream and adjacent to the NP owned by the LCFPD.
 - b. Threat: The site is vulnerable to changes in surface hydrology and sedimentation associated with the project.
 - c. Status: Ongoing. IDNR Consultation staff, INPC staff, and LCFPD staff provided specific recommendations to eliminate/minimize threat. Construction recently began on the large sports complex and LCFPD staff is monitoring the project for compliance with recommendations for erosion/sediment control following initial reports of sediment entering the NP.
5. **Bliss Woods NP, Kane County – Steven Byers, Jenny Skufca**
 - a. Issue: An unknown amount of lead shot has been deposited in the NP by years of trap/skeet shooting at the nearby Aurora Sportsman’s Club.
 - b. Threat: Lead shot poses a threat to humans and the environment.
 - c. Status: Ongoing. INPC staff is working with the NP landowner, Forest Preserve District of Kane County, to minimize impact to the NP. Limited information is available due to pending litigation.
6. **Paintbrush Prairie NP, Cook County – Steven Byers**
 - a. Issue: A development has been proposed for land located south and east of the NP.
 - b. Threat: The development poses a threat through alteration of surface and possibly groundwater flow. Other concerns include excessive lighting and inappropriate restoration (introduction of weed seeds, non-local varieties of seeds) planned for the balance of the site.
 - c. Status: New. The project has been reviewed and approved by the USACE with recommendations from TNC, IDNR Consultation, and INPC that will, if implemented, reduce the threat posed by this project.
7. **Spring Lake NP, Cook County – Steven Byers**
 - a. Issue: A development has been proposed for land located immediately adjacent to (separated only by Bateman Road) and upstream from the NP.
 - b. Threat: This project will alter the amount, rate, and quality of surface water entering the NP. The proximity of a septic field to the groundwater and stream is a problem.
 - c. Status: New. INPC staff recommended that this project not be approved because of the identified threats. The consultant, representing the developer, has responded to the concerns raised by the INPC. IDNR Consultation staff is in the process of determining whether to close consultation.

8. **Truitt-Hoff NP, DuPage County – Steven Byers**
 - a. Issue: The City of West Chicago Community Development/Zoning Review is currently considering a variance that would allow for construction of a 132-foot-tall lighted tower within a close and unobstructed view of the prairie. The NP is co-owned by the City of West Chicago and the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County (FPDDC). The FPDDC has requested that this variance be denied.
 - b. Threat: The lighted tower represents a source of light pollution, threat to wildlife, and will impair the aesthetics of the site.
 - c. Status: New. INPC staff corresponded with the City of West Chicago requesting that the variance to construct the tower be denied. The INPC also provided input to the storm water detention plan, recommending a “wet basin” using native prairie/wetland plants to provide water quality benefits and serve as a better buffer to the prairie.
9. **Sagawau Canyon NP, Cook County – Steven Byers**
 - a. Issue: A culvert located under Illinois Route 171 may be replaced by IDOT.
 - b. Threat: The immediate threat posed by replacing the culvert is increased sedimentation/erosion from the work site moving downstream into the NP. In the long term, replacement of the current culvert with a larger culvert could alter the amount and rate of runoff from the upstream watershed into the canyon (the outstanding feature of this NP).
 - c. Status: New. INPC staff will coordinate with the IDOT project manager.
10. **Tallmadge Sand Forest LWR, Kankakee County – Kim Roman, Jenny Skufca**
 - a. Issue: 88 white oak trees were removed from within the LWR.
 - b. Threat: Direct impact to the LWR. Unauthorized removal of trees, over 4,000 feet of up to 18-inch ruts were created throughout the interior of the LWR, and signs were removed.
 - c. Status: Ongoing. IDNR Conservation Police have completed their investigation. TNC, as landowner, has filed a lawsuit. IDNR Office of Legal Counsel has referred this matter to the Office of the Attorney General.
11. **Nenawakwa LWR, McDonough County – Angella Moorehouse, Jenny Skufca**
 - a. Issue: The landowner discovered a grading encroachment within the LWR.
 - b. Threat: Unauthorized intrusion into the LWR, including tire ruts and a large graded area leading to the neighbor’s property.
 - c. Status: Ongoing. The McDonough County State’s Attorney’s Office has informed the INPC that the settlement has been accepted by the responsible party. Written documentation has not yet been provided to the landowner.
12. **Short Fork Seep NP, McDonough County – Angella Moorehouse, Jenny Skufca**
 - a. Issue: The landowner discovered that herbicide had been used within the NP associated with power line vegetative maintenance.
 - b. Threat: Direct impact to flora in the NP causing damage to the vegetation and soils within the high-quality portion of seep/sedge meadow of the NP.
 - c. Status: Ongoing. IDNR Office of Legal Counsel has referred this matter to the Illinois Attorney General.
13. **Fall Creek Gorge LWR, Adams County – Angella Moorehouse**
 - a. Issue: Unauthorized and potentially dangerous use of the IDNR-owned LWR.
 - b. Threat: Although officially closed (gate over road), the area encompassing the gorge and significant features of the LWR are accessible from a county highway which cuts through the LWR. Visitors to the site have cut the fence, dammed up the stream, and installed a swing to use at the newly created “swimming hole.” There is evidence of drug use (needles, meth-making supplies) on the LWR.
 - c. Status: New. The IDNR District Wildlife Biologist met with the local Conservation Police Officer on August 24, 2011 to discuss matters related to the unauthorized uses. INPC staff will follow up with IDNR staff.
14. **Carpenter Park NP, Sangamon County – Tom Lerczak, Jenny Skufca**
 - a. Issue: Vandals painted graffiti on the sandstone outcrop and various other natural and unnatural features of the NP.
 - b. Threat: Introduction of material to the NP.
 - c. Status: Resolved. Responsible parties were identified. INPC staff will continue to work closely with staff of landowner, Springfield Park District, to repair the damage and deter future occurrences.
15. **Barnhart Prairie Restoration NP, Champaign County – Mary Kay Solecki**

- a. Issue: A wind turbine proposed by the University of Illinois on adjacent property will potentially cast shadow flicker on the NP.
 - b. Threat: Shadow flicker and noise have the potential to disrupt communities within the NP.
 - c. Status: Resolved. The wind turbine proposal was canceled.
16. **Stemler Cave NP, St. Clair County – Debbie Newman, Jenny Skufca**
- a. Issue: Inaccessibility and vegetative management concerns related to a power line located across the top of the NP sinkhole and cave entrance.
 - b. Threat: Vegetative management could adversely impact the NP and present a safety hazard for the electric cooperative.
 - c. Status: Ongoing. Monroe County Electric Cooperative has obtained the necessary easements to move the power line and poles along the road and out of the NP. The Cooperative is amending the easement for the NP landowners to exclude any areas within the NP boundaries.

VII. Stewardship Program:

- A. Kelly Neal, Jenny Skufca, Angella Moorehouse, Bob Edgin, Hannah Kalk and Stefanie Ervin participated in a Stewardship Summit meeting with the IDNR's Division of Natural Heritage.
- B. Russell Heinrichs collected, reared, and distributed *Galerucella* beetles as biological control agents for Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) infestations under permit at Volo Bog NP and Pistakee Bog NP.
- C. Tom Lerczak:
 - 1. Coordinated the INPC sign order (various INPC signs and specialty restriction signs), the post order, and the herbicide order. Mr. Lerczak also coordinated the distribution of these items to staff and landowners.
 - 2. Mentored a Bradley University graduate student on a permitted woody vegetation study at Dirksen-McNaughton Woods LWR.
- D. Bob Edgin and Stefanie Ervin assisted with the planting of 300 royal catchfly (*Silene regia*) at Chauncey Marsh LWR and three locations at Prairie Ridge State Natural Area, continuing implementation of royal catchfly recovery in the Prairie Ridge Conservation Opportunity Area.
- E. Stewardship Planning:
 - 1. Kelly Neal:
 - a. Reviewed nine management schedules, eight unscheduled management activities and two management related CERPs at INPC sites.
 - b. Participated in meetings with IDNR ORC and Office of Strategic Services staff to plan for an electronic ORC permit management system which would include INPC permitting.
 - 2. John Nelson:
 - a. Attended a restoration round-table meeting for Yonder Prairie NP with members of the McHenry County Land Conservancy, USACE, Ducks Unlimited and other resource professionals regarding ongoing large-scale restoration plan implementation.
 - b. Coordinated a land management meeting attended by the Boy Scouts and IDNR staff for the Wiley addition to Apple River Canyon LWR.
 - c. Participated in the Searls Park Prairie NP restoration round-table.
 - d. Met with landowners of ten different protected sites to discuss and advise on management issues/goals.
 - e. Wrote and obtained landowner approvals for management plans for Heeren Prairie NP and Boone Creek Fen NP.
 - 3. Russell Heinrichs:
 - a. Met with Boy Scouts of America and IDNR staff at Apple River Canyon LWR concerning stewardship and site uses.
 - b. Wrote management plans for Piros Prairie NP and assisted with distribution to the various landowners of the site for review and follow-up communications regarding the management plan for Boone Creek Fen.
 - 4. Steven Byers:
 - a. Worked in cooperation with Friends of the Forest Preserves to receive USEPA Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding (\$450,870) with a \$90,000 match (primarily from the FPDCC). This initiative stemmed from a meeting called by the INPC to identify partners and match. Mr. Byers worked with the Friends of the Forest Preserves to apply for the grant. Funding is for management at Superior Street Prairie LWR, Sand Ridge NP, Gensburg-Markham Prairie NP and three INAI sites owned by the FPDCC.
 - b. Worked with IDNR staff to prioritize funding for Halo Hill Tree Farm and Artists Retreat LWR.

- c. Requested funding through the Natural Areas Acquisition Fund (NAAF) for stewardship of northeastern Illinois fens for FY 2012.
 - d. Reviewed a contract and priorities for stewardship for the proposed Fields of Cambridge Sedge Meadow and Prairie NP with Chicago Wilderness and Integrated Lakes Management. Supported a Liberty Prairie Conservancy application and met with staff of the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation to support funding for acquisition and stewardship at that site.
 - e. Coordinated stewardship planning at Wolf Road Prairie NP with the FPDCC, IDNR, and Salt Creek Greenways Association volunteers, as well as prioritized management activities for contractors and volunteers.
5. Kim Roman participated in planning meetings with the Indiana Chapter of TNC and the FPDWC to facilitate restoration of natural areas, NPs, and buffer areas in the Kankakee Sands.
 6. Angella Moorehouse and Ray Geroff attended various meetings in the Quad Cities associated with the Upper Mississippi River Conservation Opportunity Area and U.S. Forest Service Hazardous Fuels Mitigation Grant.
 7. Tom Lerczak:
 - a. Consulted on-site with IDNR staff to assess several bridge replacement proposals at Spitler Woods NP.
 - b. Worked with Friends of the Sangamon Valley, a volunteer stewardship organization and land trust, to plan management at Walden West LWR.
 - c. Coordinated with a DHB to supervise restoration at Illinois River Sand Areas LWR.
 - d. Submitted three new NAAF project proposals for FY 2012.
 8. Mary Kay Solecki prepared and submitted a proposal for funding to control exotic plants at River Bend LWR.
 9. Debbie Newman and Hannah Kalk updated existing management plans or prepared new management plans for several NPs and LWRs, including Palisades NP, E. Dora Bohm Memorial NP, Katelyn's Woods LWR, Martha and Michelle Prairies LWR, DesPain Wetlands LWR, Two Branch Peace Prairie LWR, and Angela's Prairie LWR.
 10. Hannah Kalk assisted Debbie Newman and Martin Kemper with alterations to a trail plan for Fults Hill Prairie NP in order to address human safety and ecological concerns.
 11. Bob Edgin developed management plans for one new NHL and updated management plans for four existing sites.
- B. Stewardship project implementation: Staff continued to coordinate and administer stewardship projects, including the Hill Prairie Project, funded by Landowners Incentive Program (LIP), State Wildlife Grant (SWG), Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP), an IEPA 319 Grant, the NAAF, Chicago Wilderness Grants and INPC operations fund. These projects involve meeting with landowners, securing landowner agreements, preparation of grant applications, preparing bid packages, supervising contractors, and assisting in conducting restoration activities. Contractor work included prairie reconstruction and seed purchase, exotics and woody species control, dump cleanup, erosion control, boundary survey, fence construction, sign posting, prescribed burn site preparation, and burn crews. Sites where this kind of work occurred include:
1. Area 2 (Byers): nine MCCD wetland basins.
 2. Area 5 (Lerczak): several hill prairie sites
 3. Area 7 (Newman): 11 INPC sites
- C. Land management conducted by staff includes site surveillance, prairie reconstruction and seed purchase, exotics and woody species control, dump cleanup, erosion control, boundary survey, fence construction, sign posting, coordinating and working with volunteers, prescribed burn site preparation, and participating in or leading prescribed burns¹. Sites where this kind of work occurred and additional management related activities include:
1. Area 1 (Nelson, Heinrichs): Boone Creek Fen NP (burn), Harlem Hills NP (burn), Illinois Beach (burn), and Chain of Lakes State Park (burn), Gladstone Fen NP, Freeport Prairie NP, Boloria Fen and Sedge Meadow NP, Moraine Hills State Park, Apple River Canyon LWR, and Pistakee Bog NP.
 2. Area 2 (Byers): Trout Park NP, Wolf Road Prairie NP, the proposed Fields of Cambridge Sedge Meadow and Prairie NP, and Glacial Park NP.
 3. Area 3 (Roman): Des Plaines Dolomite Prairies LWR, Grant Creek Prairie NP, Bonnie's Prairie NP, Sweet Fern Savanna LWR, Hooper Branch Savanna NP, Superior Street Prairie LWR, Hildy Prairie NP, Old

¹ NOTE: References to "(burn)" are for spring burns conducted after the deadline to turn in report information for the May 2011 staff report.

- Plank Road Prairie NP, Wolf Road Prairie NP, Long Run Seep NP, Voight Pauper Cemetery Prairie LWR, Short Pioneer Cemetery Prairie NP, Iroquois Sands LWR, and Goose Lake Prairie NP.
4. Area 4 (Moorehouse, Geroff): nine sites enrolled in INPC programs.
 5. Area 5 (Lerczak): Mt. Palatine Cemetery Prairie NP (burn), Sparks Pond LWR (burn) and Manito Prairie NP (burn).
 6. Area 6 (Solecki): Baber Woods NP, Barnhart Prairie Restoration NP, Conkeytown NHL, Horseshoe Bottom NP, Larimore's Salt Fork of the Vermilion River LWR, Luke Woods NHL, Prospect Cemetery Prairie NP, Fairchild Cemetery Prairie/Savanna NP.
 7. Area 7 (Newman, Kalk): DesPain Wetlands LWR, Piney Creek Ravine NP, Stemler Cave Woods NP, Julius J. Knobeloch Woods NP, Salt Lick Point LWR, and Posen Woods NP.
 8. Area 8 (Edgin, Ervin): Beadles Barrens NP, Beall Woods NP, Big Creek Woods Memorial NP, Emma Vance Woods NP, Lost Creek Marsh NP and LWR, Wade Heiser Woods NHL, Dry Fork Woods NHL, Marjorie J. Brines White Oak Woods LWR, P & E Refuge LWR, Allison Gravel Prairie NHL, Green Prairie NHL, Forbes State Park, Chauncey Marsh LWR, Illinois Audubon Society property in Marion County and boundary sign posting on newly acquired property in Lawrence County.

**Illinois Department of Natural Resources
report to the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission
at the 209th meeting, September 20, 2011**

Personnel

Diane Tecic, the Natural Heritage Division Regional Administrator for northwestern, southwestern and east central Illinois, accepted another job in DNR with the new Coastal Zone management program in Chicago. Maggie Cole will take over Diane's duties in northwestern Illinois, Jody Shimp will take on east central Illinois and Mike Moomey west central Illinois. An updated map of the heritage biologist districts is available.

Natural Heritage Resident Interns

Two more natural heritage resident interns started work with DNR since the last Commission meeting, bringing the total to 8 interns this year. Samantha Worthington is working in the Peoria region and Stefanie Fitzsimons is working in northeastern Illinois. The resident intern is a one-year, paid, full-time position with DNR where students working on a Masters degree in biology gain work experience by assisting Natural Heritage Biologists or Nature Preserves Commission Preservation Specialists in the field. There have been 66 resident interns since the program began in 1993. The intern program is funded by the Natural Areas Acquisition Fund.

Wildlife Preservation Fund

The Illinois income tax "checkoff" fund generated about \$150,000 this year. Nine projects will be funded with the donations including restoration of 200 acres of prairie at Prairie Ridge State Natural Area, continuation of Plants of Concern, support for Earth Day in the Parks and seed money to match other sources in order to continue the update of the Natural Areas Inventory.

Natural Heritage database

The Heritage database staff had a productive month in August, mapping and/or doing data entry of 46 E and T occurrences (both new and updates), data entry for 73 INAI sites and remapping of 177 INPC protected sites using legal boundaries provided by David Holman and others.

Illinois Natural Areas Inventory

Five regional ecologists are in the field again this summer updating the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory. A second effort, reassessing the condition of existing Category I (high quality natural community) natural areas, is also continuing. New sites from the INAI Update effort continue to be nominated following a set procedure. The Update contract with DNR expires October 31, 2011. While official results are not yet available for this field season, it looks to be the most successful to date. Unfortunately, due to a larger than anticipated number of potential survey sites and resulting landowner contact and scheduling constraints, it appears that areas of the state will not be completely updated by this contract. The Natural History Survey was awarded a \$30,000 Wildlife Preservation Fund grant that will be matched with Foundation money to continue the INAI update on a limited basis within those areas.

The 57th Natural Areas Evaluation Committee (NAEC) meeting was held August 30th in Springfield. Nine sites were added to the INAI. Six of the sites are high quality natural communities resulting from work on the INAI Update contract. Two sites were added resulting from actions taken by the Nature Preserves Commission. One site resulted from freshwater mussel sampling that has been added to DNR's fisheries basin surveys. Randy Heidorn represents INPC on the NAEC.

DNH/NPC/ESPB staff meeting

The Division of Natural Heritage sponsored a Division and Stewardship meeting in Springfield on August 31 and September 1. The meeting included DNH field staff, NPC staff, and the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board Director. Topics covered during the meeting included: review of NAAF Funds, managing Federal Aid Projects, planting materials from the DNR nursery, Share Point, an endangered species program update, a stewardship roundtable review and a natural areas program update.



ILLINOIS ENDANGERED SPECIES PROTECTION BOARD

One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, Illinois 62702 - 1271, (217) 785-8687; FAX (217) 785-2438

Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board report for the September 20, 2011 Illinois Nature Preserves Commission meeting

Submitted by Anne Mankowski, Director

The Board held its 150th and 151st meetings on May 13, 2011 and August 12, 2011, respectively. Board actions and other items from those meetings included:

1. ESPB Resolution of Support for the Creation of Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge

The Board passed resolution 151-13 supporting the creation of Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge would protect habitat for at least 60 state-listed endangered and threatened species. A copy of the resolution was transmitted to the Regional Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service upon its passage.

2. Meetings

Ms. Mankowski participates in IDNR ORC twice-monthly and Natural Heritage monthly administrative meetings.

Ms. Mankowski participated in the 56th and 57th Natural Areas Evaluation Committee (NAEC) meetings held at IDNR headquarters June 7, 2011 and August 30, 2011, respectively. The ESPB is a voting member of the NAEC. The meetings included combined approval of 8 new Category I (high-quality community) sites, 5 new Category II (endangered and threatened species specific suitable habitat) sites, 4 new Category III (IL Nature Preserves and Land and Water Reserves) sites, and 4 new Category VI (unusual concentration of flora and fauna) sites.

Ms. Mankowski met twice with IDNR Office of Legal Counsel to provide endangered and threatened species law, policy, and procedure orientation to several new attorneys.

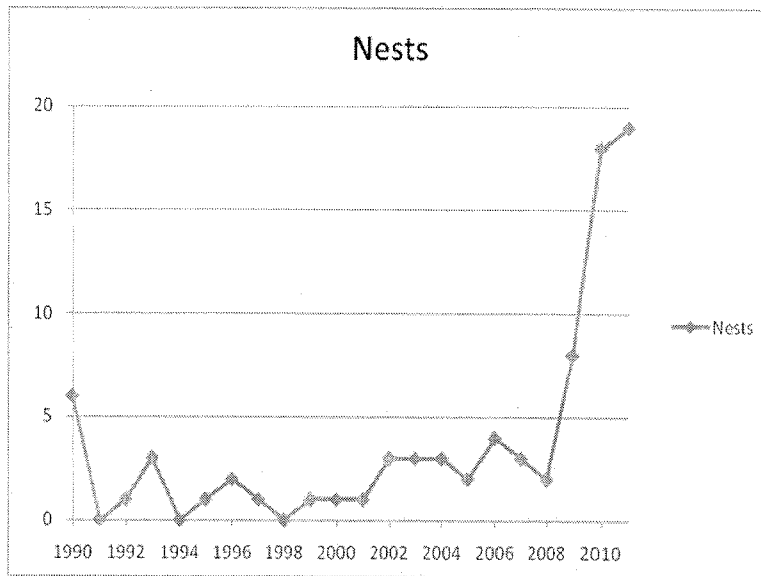
Ms. Mankowski attended a meeting of the Chicago Wilderness Natural Resource Management Team to speak about the recovery planning process for the Blanding's Turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*) in Illinois.

3. Coordination with IDNR and INPC:

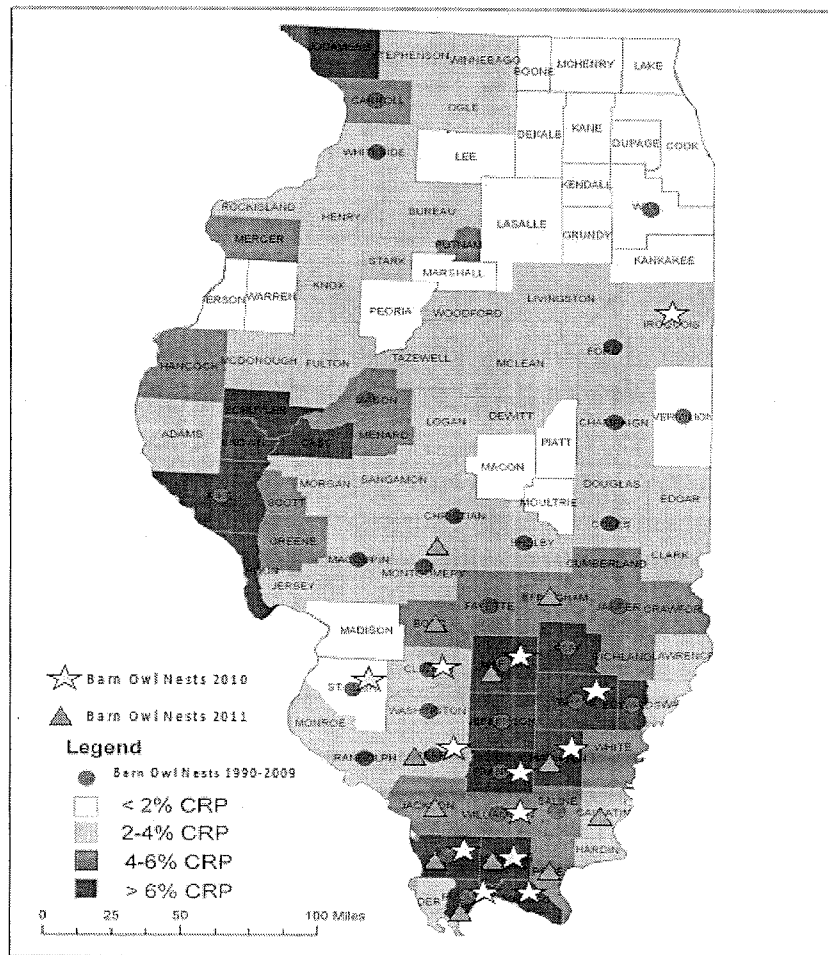
Ms. Mankowski coordinated with the Endangered Species Program and Div. of Wildlife ORC, Impact Assessment Section OREP, Office of Land Management, Office of Law Enforcement, Office of Legal Counsel, Office of Public Services, Media Relations, and Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, on multiple matters, including:

- Assisted IDNR OLC and Law Enforcement with compilation of information related to a possible violation of the ESA involving collecting without a valid permit.
- Continued project management of the Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) recovery planning and implementation State Wildlife Grant project (T-35-P-1) and submitted the SWG final report to the USFWS. During 2010, the recovery team placed 42 new nest boxes in 19 counties and monitored 50 existing boxes for activity. The increased nesting opportunities resulting from the nest box placements appear to be working for the barn owl: For the period of 1990-2009, there were 38 barn owl nesting records from 31 counties, with the one-year high being 8 active nests in 2009, while in 2010 the recovery team documented 18 nesting records in 13 counties. Preliminary data for 2011 field work indicates that at least 75 nest boxes were checked, 32 new boxes were placed, and 19

active nesting records (14 in nest boxes) have been documented in at least 11 counties (see below).



Barn owl nest element occurrence records in the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Natural Heritage Biotics 4 database from 1990 – July 2011.



- Met with IDNR ORC Director, Jim Herkert, to review ESPB/IDNR coordination of endangered and threatened species work.
- Provided IDNR review and comments of draft documents associated with a USFWS/INDNR-led wind energy multi-state Habitat Conservation Plan.
- Provided review and comments of an IDNR monitoring plan for the Northern Riffleshell (*Epioblasma rangiana*; IL E, Fed E) reintroduction project and a review of the endangered and threatened species translocation approval coordination process between IDNR, ESPB, and INPC that is supposed to precede issuance of permits.
- Provided to IDNR ORC staff a review of the endangered and threatened species translocation approval coordination process between IDNR, ESPB, and INPC that is supposed to precede issuance of permits – in this case for translocation work involving the Black Sandshell (*Ligumia recta*).
- Completed administration necessary to fully execute a contract with Northern Illinois University for development of an Illinois Recovery Plan for Blanding's Turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*). The production of a recovery plan will follow the IDNR ORC recovery planning process with a final plan being approved by the IDNR and ESPB. Ms. Mankowski and IDNR Wildlife Resources Regional Administrator, Dan Ludwig, will co-chair a recovery planning team that is being established.
- Provided to IDNR ORC staff information regarding the Illinois and Federal status of the copperbelly watersnake.
- Provided IDNR Forestry staff information regarding IDNR endangered and threatened species consultation contacts and references.
- Provided to INPC staff information regarding endangered and threatened species location and habitat information relative to threats at an Illinois Nature Preserve.
- Communicated with INPC staff about trying to coordinate for a joint ESPB/INPC meeting in September 2011. INPC staff indicated that they were not able to coordinate for that timeframe. Ms. Mankowski will continue to communicate with INPC staff about a possible joint meeting in 2012.
- Provided review, comments, and questions to IDNR on two draft incidental take authorizations: Arenzville water pipeline project involving the Illinois Chorus Frog (*Pseudacris illinosensis*; IL T); and UIUC bridge replacement and road repair project involving Kirtland's Snake (*Clonophis kirtlandii*; IL T), Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake (*Sistrurus catenatus*; IL E); and Mudpuppy (*Necturus maculosus*; IL T) during the last quarter.
- Fielded and referred 12 requests to IDNR for E&T consultation, incidental take, data, permits, etc.
- Directly responded to 84 requests for ESPB and E&T information from the public and other state and federal agencies.

4. Coordination with other Agencies

- Ms. Mankowski, working with the Board's Endangered Species Technical Advisory Committees and Tara Kieninger, IDNR Natural Heritage Database Manager, provided data to the USFWS in response to information requests for several species including the five-year review of Clubshell (Fed E, considered extirpated in IL) and Northern Riffleshell (*Epioblasma rangiana*; Fed E, IL E following USFWS-led reintroduction into IL) mussels; the proposed listing review for Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*), Northern Long-eared (*Myotis septentrionalis*) and Eastern Small-footed (*Myotis leibii*) bats; and advanced information requests for the Big Brown (*Eptesicus fuscus*), Little Brown (*Myotis lucifugus*), Tri-colored/Eastern Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus subflavus*), Southeastern Myotis (*Myotis austroriparius*; IL E), Cave Myotis (*Myotis velifer*).
- Ms. Mankowski met with Illinois Department of Transportation, IDNR, and INHS staff to discuss a proposal to amend the Illinois Administrative Rule for Incidental Take of Endangered and Threatened Species. Discussion in the meeting determined that more information about results of mitigation activities was necessary before further advancing consideration of the proposal.

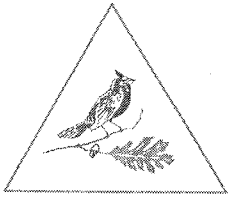
- Ms. Mankowski provided information to the Champaign County State's Attorney regarding the IL List of Endangered and Threatened Species, the inclusion of federally endangered and threatened species on the IL List, and IDNR permit requirements related to federally listed species.
- Ms. Mankowski provided information to the IL Department of Economic Opportunity regarding endangered and threatened species consultation and coordination related to a disaster area federal aid application that DCEO was preparing for flood damages in southern Illinois.
- Ms. Mankowski conducted a survey and provided a report for a USGS Breeding Bird Survey route in central Illinois.
- Ms. Mankowski chaired the 2011 Natural Areas Association George B. Fell and Carl N. Becker Awards review committee.

5. Field Work

- Performed surveys for Common Striped Scorpion (*Centruroides vittatus*) in Monroe and Randolph Counties.
- Assisted USFS with surveys for Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie.
- Assisted IDNR Natural Heritage Staff with Illinois Barn Owl Recovery Plan implementation activities including nest box placement, monitoring, and site evaluations in IDNR Region 4.
- Conducted a USGS Breeding Bird Survey route in central Illinois.

6. 152nd meeting of the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board

The 152nd meeting of the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board will be at 10:00 A.M. on November 18, 2011 at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie.



Illinois
Nature
Preserves
Commission

memorandum

Exhibit D

To: Commissioners
From: Kelly Neal, Jenny Skufca, and Randy Heidorn
Date: September 9, 2011
Subject: Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC) Staff Recommendation Regarding Item 21 - Proposal to Place a Parking Lot within Hanover Bluff Nature Preserve, Jo Daviess County

Background:

Hanover Bluff Nature Preserve, owned by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, was dedicated in May, 1987 as the 150th Illinois nature preserve and the first nature preserve located in the Wisconsin Driftless Natural Division. This natural division represents the Illinois portion of the North American geo-biological feature known as the "Driftless Area." Hanover Bluff is located on a high dolomite ridge that forms a valley wall of the Mississippi River in Jo Daviess County. The 525.7-acre site is recognized on the Natural Areas Inventory (INAI # 0608) for six native plant communities: sand hill prairie, dry dolomite prairie, dolomite cliff, dry-mesic and mesic upland forest, and seep springs. The sand hill prairie is one of the most interesting communities. Only the very steep, drier, less accessible slopes escaped grazing. The highest quality slopes are dominated by little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), sideoats grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*), hairy grama (*Bouteloua hirsuta*), and over 80 other native prairie species. The large forests and moister areas add to the diversity of this already unique area. White oak (*Quercus alba*), black oak (*Q. velutina*), red oak (*Q. rubra*), basswood (*Tilia americana*), and sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*) are a few of the canopy species, while several rare wildflower species occur in the herbaceous layer. These communities provide habitat for many nongame wildlife species such as the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), scarlet tanager (*Piranga olivacea*), wood thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*), prairie ringneck snake (*Diadophis punctatus*), and several species of frogs and toads.

Proposal:

There was no access for vehicles available to the top of Hanover Bluff for IDNR and INPC staff until the purchase of the Shelly Tract in June, 1997. Included with this acquisition was an existing lane through an abandoned quarry which provided access to the top of the bluff where the lane continued to the north through the Nature Preserve. The northwestern portion of this lane continues on to South Whitton Road. This section, which lies above the location of the proposed parking lot, is very steep, and erosion has washed out small portions of the lane. The steep topography makes this section of the lane unsuitable for vehicular access. Since acquisition of the original tract of land at Hanover Bluff, this portion of the lane has been used by staff for important management purposes, e.g., removal of invasive woody species, exotic species control, and prescribed burning. It has also been used for foot access by visitors to the Nature Preserve, especially the hill prairies which provide a panoramic view of the former Savanna Army Depot.

The distance from the road to the edge of the Nature Preserve is approximately 20 feet; however, adjacent woody vegetation reduces that distance in most locations. The proposed lot would provide a safe location for parking for IDNR/INPC staff and the public. A parking lot at this location would improve management of the significant natural resources. Landscape burn plans include the access lane as a division between two larger burn units, so the proposed lot would again provide a safer staging area for crews and equipment. Placing the parking lot at the proposed location would also serve to draw visitors away from the bluffs at the southern end of the Nature Preserve, especially near the abandoned quarry. The abandoned quarry area provides the only known birthing and hibernating locations for a state-threatened species at Hanover Bluff.

Locations were considered for construction of the parking lot on the west side of the Nature Preserve, and each location shows signs of past disturbances. Historically, the west side of the Nature Preserve was mostly prairie which once extended from the base of the bluff to the top of the ridge. The area was formerly grazed as evidenced by remnant fences. Due to the lack of fire, these sites have been invaded by woody species. Thus, construction of the proposed parking lot would require removal of a number of small trees, most less than 6" diameter at breast height (DBH). Two locations at the base of the old lane were considered; one extending from the gate north (gate-north) and one extending from the gate south (gate-south). Construction of the proposed parking lot at the gate-north location would require removal of approximately 41 small trees, all 6" or less DBH with the exception of one 8" DBH red elm (*Ulmus rubra*) and one 7" ash (*Fraxinus* sp.). Construction of the proposed parking lot from the gate-south location, which is drier, would require removal of one large (24" DBH) black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) and approximately 30 small trees, all 6" or less DBH with the exception of two 7-8" DBH eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*). There are no listed species within the project boundary at either the gate-north or gate-south locations. There is, however, a small population of the state-threatened kitten tails (*Besseyia bullii*) located at the base of the wooded slope approximately 100 feet from the northern edge of these locations on the south side of the old lane.

Gate-south is the preferred location, with the gate-north location as an alternative if unforeseen engineering issues are found. The IDNR would like to construct an approximate 45-foot x 50-foot parking lot off of South Whitton Road at gate-south location. There would be a gate and limestone blocks or metal guardrail installed to prevent access by unauthorized vehicles, particularly ATVs, to the Nature Preserve. INPC entrance and interpretive signs would be placed to inform visitors as to the significance of the rare natural resources of the Nature Preserve.

Legal Authorities and Responsibilities:

The Rules for Management of Nature Preserves (17 Ill. Adm. Codes, Part 4000) states in Section 4000.270 (b), "Within buffer areas, service areas may be established which provide access and parking, management facilities, and/or visitor facilities. Service areas must not impair the natural features of the nature preserve. Such necessary service areas should be included in the instrument of dedication, master plan or management schedule. All other structures and facilities not included in Section 4000.270(a) shall be located in buffer areas or on property outside the dedicated nature preserve."

Section 4000.120 (c) states, “Management, development, or uses of a specific preserve, not otherwise allowed under the rules, may be allowed as a provision of the master plan for the site, or may be approved by the Commission under Section 4000.160 of this Part.”

Section 4000.160 states “Management activities otherwise prohibited under the rules or an approved master plan may be approved by the Commission upon written request of the owner. The request must outline the objective of the management activity, and identify the natural communities and any threatened or endangered species, or significant or notable natural features, that may be affected by the proposed activity. If the Commission determines that the proposed activity will enhance the natural features of the preserve, consistent with the proposal for dedication, the Commission shall approve the request. The Commission may, with reasonable notice to the custodian, withdraw approval for management activities previously granted if it is subsequently determined that the activity may have an adverse impact on the nature preserve.”

Analysis:

The two preferred areas considered for parking lot construction are highly degraded and contain a mix of early successional woody species of minimal ecological quality; therefore no high-quality plant communities will be impacted by the construction of the lot. The lot will allow for staff to park and stage equipment safely, allowing management of the high-quality plant communities for which the site was dedicated.

The lot will also provide a safe location for visitors to park while visiting the Nature Preserve. The location of the lot will divert visitors who may have previously accessed the site through the hibernating area of a state-threatened species, reducing stress and disturbances to that species.

At the time of dedication there was not yet a full understanding of all of the management needs at the site. A comprehensive plan for management was not fully developed at time of dedication, therefore the need to designate a portion of the area as buffer to accommodate parking for management purposes was not considered. Management needs at the site have increased over time. Rules for management cited above allow for this use upon approval of the Commission.

Recommendation:

INPC staff recommends that the IDNR’s request a parking lot within Hanover Bluff Nature Preserve be approved with the following stipulations:

- Further analysis of the suitability of the two preferred locations.
- Share information from this analysis with INPC staff, as well as factors considered in determination of the final location.
- Submit the project for IDNR’s Comprehensive Environmental Review Process.
- INPC staff must review, comment and, if necessary, modify final plans prior to construction.
- There should be no impacts to high-quality plant communities or threatened or endangered species.
- Construction activities should be limited to the footprint dimensions of the lot.
- Prior to the commencement of construction, the District Natural Heritage Biologist (DHB) will meet with the contractor to convey the sensitivity of this site and discuss best management practices.
- The DHB must review and approve all construction staging, access, routes, methods and

equipment with the contractor. Construction zones should be clearly delineated to prevent unnecessary disturbance, and staging areas should be located outside of the Nature Preserve or within the footprint of the lot.

- All equipment should be power washed off-site to ensure that there will be no introduction of exotic or invasive plant seeds/propagules, and all equipment must arrive on site clean.
- Best management practices for soil erosion control should be in place if there is potential for erosion.